

October 19, 2000

U.S. Food & Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch 98P-0151/CP1 OCT 25 A9:54
Attn: Docket No. 98P-0151/CP1
5600 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20785

Dear Sirs/Ms.:

I strongly urge you to grant the petition, filed by Farm Sanctuary - Docket No. 98P-0151/CP1, to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals.

Animals who are too sick or injured even to stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain. In addition to posing an increased risk for bacterial contamination, there is evidence that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy or "Mad Cow Disease"), a disease linked to a fatal human illness (CJD or Creutzfeld-Jakob Disease).

It is impossible to move downed animals humanely for all practical purposes, and they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains - inhumane processes causing injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions, to broken bones and torn ligaments. These animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered, and prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship. Industry experts estimate that 90% of them can be prevented with better care and handling. Removing the market for downed animals will provide an incentive for the industry to prevent them in the first place. C2488

I remain, seeking the humane treatment of farm animals,

Claire Martineau

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